

CLAIMS

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

- 1 1. A signal distribution system including
2 a communication path between a central
3 facility including a signal source to a plurality
4 of cable drops,
5 a condition detector at each of said
6 plurality of cable drops,
7 means for providing a sequence of tones
8 responsive to said condition detector,
9 means for coupling said sequence of tones to
10 said communication path during a time slot
11 determined by a time base, and
12 means for decoding said sequence of tones at
13 said central facility.
- 1 2. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said
2 means for providing said sequence of tones
3 provides a sequence of tone pairs.
- 1 3. A system as recited in claim 2, wherein said
2 means for decoding provides a digital signal input
3 to a printer.
- 1 4. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said
2 condition detector detects at least one of power
3 outage and ingress.
- 1 5. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said
2 system is divided into a plurality of sectors.

1 6. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said
2 time base is provided at a directional coupler
3 providing communication links to a plurality of
4 said cable drops.

1 7. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said
2 time base includes a counter for counting time
3 slots.

1 8. A system as recited in claim 7, further
2 including a comparator responsive to said counter
3 for identifying time slots corresponding to
4 respective ones of said plurality of cable drops .

1 9. A system as recited in claim 8, further
2 including
3 means for latching an output of said
4 condition detector and wherein said comparator is
5 responsive to an output of said means for latching
6 and said counter for controlling said means for
7 generating said sequence of tones.

1 10. A system as recited in claim 1, further
2 including
3 a time base at said central facility, and
4 means for counting time slots at said central
5 facility.

1 11. A system as recited in claim 10, further
2 including
3 means for comparing an output of said means
4 for counting time slots at said central facility
5 and an output of said means for decoding said
6 sequence of tones.

- 1 12. A system as recited in claim 1, further
2 including
3 means for controlling polling frequency of
4 said cable drops.
- 1 13. A system as recited in claim 7, further
2 including
3 means for resetting said counter.
- 1 14. A system as recited in claim 10, further
2 including means for synchronizing said counter
3 with said means for counting time slots at said
4 central facility.
- 1 15. A system as recited in claim 1, further
2 including
3 means for storing power for operation of said
4 condition detector, said means for providing said
5 sequence of tones and said means for coupling said
6 sequence of tones to said communication link.
- 1 16. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said
2 means for coupling said sequence of tones to said
3 communication link includes
4 means for modulating a carrier signal.
- 1 17. A system as recited in claim 16, wherein a
2 frequency of said carrier signal is approximately
3 25 KHz.

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1 19. A method as recited in claim 18, including
2 the further step of
3 printing indicia corresponding to said
4 sequence of tones.

1 20. A method as recited in claim 18, including
2 the further step of
3 transmitting a further tone corresponding to
4 said detected condition.

1 21. A method as recited in claim 20, including
2 the further step of
3 printing indicia corresponding to said
4 further tone.

1 22. A method as recited in claim 18, including
2 the further step of
3 storing power for performing said assigning
4 and selectively coupling steps with electrical
5 circuits.

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